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**To:** <waterfrontplan@seattle.gov>  
**Date:** 4/6/04 8:47PM  
**Subject:** Viaduct replacement - bridge over Elliott Bay

Dear Waterfront City Planners,

I just read in the Seattle Times that a design forum for replacing the viaduct was held. That reminded me that in the Times a few months ago I read an article about replacing the Viaduct with a bridge out over Elliott Bay. This would dramatically change the outlook from Seattle, but maybe the change would have it's own delights!

From a construction and transition point of view it could be built for the most part without disturbing existing Viaduct traffic until the final connections were made. The existing viaduct could be removed afterwards, and the existing utilities would not need to be relocated under Alaskan Way. It seems like it might be a lot less expensive than rebuilding the seawall, moving the utilities under Alaskan Way, and then building a tunnel.

The piers for the bridge could encompass new assets for the city for example: Cruise ship terminal space, restaurants, open space and public walkways. A new inner harbor would be created, that could rival Victoria's inner harbor, or Vancouver's Granville Island / False Creek for on the water and water side activities. The Coleman dock could be retained or moved out to one of the bridge piers (better line-up parking?). Seattle would gain more shoreline, and a more protected inner harbor.

The view could be interesting too: a classic suspension bridge like the Golden Gate, or perhaps a unique "Seattle" signature design could frame the outlook on the Olympics.

I understand the bridge concept was discarded, I'd like to understand the problems that were foreseen for a bridge. Are there environmental reasons such as fish, or water quality? Is the water so deep as to difficult construction issues? Or is the change in the view the main reason for not even considering a bridge?

Best regards,  
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